CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1   1.   A computer readable medium having a program for automating the

2   life cycle of a software application, where the software application utilizes computing

3   resources distributed over a network, the program comprising logic configured to

4   perform the steps of:

5   creating a task list which describes how at least one stage in the life cycle is to

6   be performed; and

7   processing the task list by a process engine to perform at least one stage in the

8   life cycle,

9   wherein the process engine is integrated with a development environment,

10   where the development environment is used to develop the software application.

1   2.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the development

2   environment is an integrated development environment.

1   3.   The computer readable medium of claim 2, wherein the integrated

2   development environment includes JBuilder.

1   4.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the process engine

2   includes Ant.

1   5.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the software

2   application utilizes computing resources through service providers connected to the

3   network.

1   6.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list is

2   stored in a text file.

1   7.   The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the text file is an

2   XML file.

1   8.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list

2   includes a first task, wherein the first task packages into a single file all files needed

3   to run the software application.

1   9.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list

2   includes a second task, wherein the second task distributes the software application to

3   at least one remote computing resource.

1   10.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list

2   includes a third task, wherein the third task executes the software application on at

3   least one remote computing resource.

1   11.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list

2   includes a fourth task, wherein the fourth task collects results from at least one remote

3   computing resource.

1   12.   The computer readable medium of claim 1, wherein the task list

2   includes a fifth task, wherein the fifth task removes the software application from at

3   least one remote computing resource.

1   13.   A system for automating the life cycle of a software application, where

2   the software application utilizes computing resources distributed over a network, the

3   system comprising:

4   a task list editor configured to create a task list, where the task list describes

5   how at least one step in the life cycle is to be executed; and

6   a process engine operating on the task list to perform the at least one step in

7   the life cycle.

1   14.   The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2   a development environment for developing the software application, where the

3   process engine is integrated with the development environment.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, wherein the development environment is an

2   integrated development environment.

1   16.   The system of claim 13, wherein the process engine is Ant.

1   17.   The system of claim 13, wherein the software application utilizes

2   computing resources through service providers connected to the network.

1   18.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list is stored in a text file.

1   19.   The system of claim 18 wherein the text file is an XML file.

1   20.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list includes a first task,

2   wherein the first task packages into a single file all files needed to run the software

3   application.

1   21.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list includes a second task,

2   wherein the second task distributes the software application to at least one remote

3   computing resource.

1   22.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list includes a third task,

2 wherein the third task executes the software application on at least one remote

3 computing resource.

1   23.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list includes a fourth task,

2 wherein the fourth task collects results from at least one remote computing resource.

1   24.   The system of claim 13, wherein the task list includes a fifth task,

2 wherein the fifth task removes the software application from at least one remote

3 computing resource.

1   25.   A system for automating the life cycle of a software application, where

2 the software application utilizes computing resources distributed over a network, the

3 system comprising:

4   creating logic operable to create a task list which describes how at least one

5 stage in the application life cycle is to be performed; and

6   processing logic responsive to the creating logic, operable to process the task

7 list to perform at least one stage in the application life cycle,

8   wherein the processing logic is integrated with a development environment,

9 wherein the development environment is used to develop the software application.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the development environment is an

2 integrated development environment.

1   27.   The system of claim 25, wherein the process engine is Ant.

1   28.   The system of claim 25, wherein the software application utilizes

2 computing resources through service providers connected to the network.

1   29.   The system of claim 25, wherein the task list is stored in a text file.

1   30.   The system of claim 25, wherein the text file is an XML file.